

## VAAL CROSSED

ROBERTS AND HIS WHOLE ARMY HAVE FORDED THE RIVER.

Now on Transvaal Soil, Fifty-One Miles from Johannesburg and Seventy-Seven from Pretoria.

## LITTLE RESISTANCE OFFERED

BOERS RETREATED RAPIDLY BEFORE THE BRITISH HOSTS.

Their Main Force Moving Toward the Klip River Hills on the South Side of Johannesburg.

## BULLER READY FOR BATTLE

BOERS IN STRENGTH AT LAING'S NEK AND A FIGHT IMMINENT.

Rumors of Surrender Again Current—Preparations Made for Destruction of Mining Property.

LONDON, May 27.—The War Office has received the following from Lord Roberts: "Vereniging, Sunday, May 27, 1:15 p. m.—We crossed the Vaal this morning and are now encamped on the north bank. The advance troops, which crossed yesterday, were only just in time to save the coal mines on both sides and the other side of the river from being destroyed. Our casualties were four.

"Baden-Powell reports that the railway between Mafeking and Bulawayo has been restored and that supplies are being brought into Mafeking. He says the Canadian artillery joined Colonel Plumer from Belra with incredible rapidity.

"Lieutenant Webb was taken prisoner at Heilbron a few days ago. He went there on telegraph duty. It was not known that our troops had been temporarily withdrawn.

President Kruger, according to a special dispatch from Newcastle, has issued a proclamation asking the Transvaal burghers to notify him whether they desire to continue the fight or to sue for peace.

## INVASION OF THE TRANSVAAL.

Lord Roberts and His Bodyguard Crossed the Vaal First.

LONDON, May 28, 2:30 a. m.—When Lord Roberts wrote his first dispatch on Transvaal territory yesterday, shortly before 2 o'clock in the afternoon, he was fifty-one miles from Johannesburg and seventy-seven from Pretoria. His immensely superior forces had passed the Vaal river, their last great natural obstacle, at three points. The Vaal forms a curve of eighty miles from Parys, on the west, to Zandfontein on the east. The concave of the curve is toward the Free State. Thus Lord Roberts, advancing along the railway, was in a position to strike any part of the crescent by shorter lines than those by which the Boers could reinforce the threatened points. The Boers retreated almost without a show of defense. General French and General Hamilton apparently did not fire a shot.

Lord Roberts' immediate force, eleven men belonging to the Eighth Mounted Infantry, was the first to ford the river. They came upon a Boer patrol looting at Viljoen's drift, and a skirmish lasting ten minutes followed. Two hundred Boers tried feebly to hold the Vereninging colliery, but they were dislodged.

Major Hunter Weston and Lieut. Earle rode in advance of Lord Roberts forty miles into a hostile country to try to cut the railway behind the Boers before the Vaal was crossed, but they were too late. The Boer rear guard is at Moyerton, ten miles south of Vereninging. Their main body is moving toward the Klip river hills that cover the south side of Johannesburg.

While Lord Roberts's 20,000 infantry, 20,000 horse and 150 guns are moving on Johannesburg and Pretoria through a parched and deserted country, the situation at the Transvaal capital, as it was last Friday, is thus described by an observer who sent his message by private hand to Lourenço Marques yesterday: "The situation, both from a military and a political point of view, has become very critical. President Kruger admitted for the first time that matters are very grave. The Boer determination is to trust everything to a last stand on the Gats Rand mountains, where three thousand Kaffirs are digging trenches. To that point every available man and gun will be sent.

"The whole western border of the Transvaal, from end to end, is defenseless, and Colonel Baden-Powell can march in when he likes. Lord Roberts, on the other hand, will encounter the greatest resistance. The Boers' endeavor is to lure the British into appearing to threaten Johannesburg with attack, an excuse thus being given them for the destruction of property. The Transvaal government will not dare destroy the mines and property without an excuse. Much dynamite has been sent down the line, and 100,000 cases lie ready at Zurfontein, near Johannesburg. General Louis Botha and General Lucas Meyer have pleaded for the preservation of property. Both are large landed proprietors and fear confiscation, but they have not received satisfactory replies from President Kruger.

"Meanwhile many French and German adventurers have come forward with schemes and inventions for blowing up the British troops. Some of these have received a tacit permission to use on a railroad where it lies perfectly concealed until the weight of a passing train explodes the charge.

strongly opposed to peace, but Mr. Kruger is not so much against it."

BOERS MAY SURRENDER.

President Kruger's proclamation to the burghers asking their votes for or against continuing the war is understood to say that they can quit now with the prospect of retaining their farms or continue to the bitter end. Rumors are current in Lord Roberts's army that the Boers intend to surrender.

Several correspondents wire the London papers that there are 100,000 foreigners in the Boer ranks, but this is hardly credible. The indications are that a pitched battle is imminent at Laing's Nek, where General Buller faces the Boers, reinforced and seemingly determined, with an estimated strength of from 8,000 to 10,000. The reinforcements include a large party from Ladybrand and French commandos from Pretoria. General Buller's officers are doubtful of the ability of the Boers to display the same tenacity as in the fighting at Ladysmith. The British are confident that when the moment arrives they will be able to force the passes.

Two boxes of dynamite fuse have been found under the Newcastle City Hall. Gen. Buller is causing numerous arrests of suspected rebels. Forty-two have been sent to Pietermaritzburg. Mr. Gawthorpe, a chemist, and his wife, have been arrested on a charge of high treason.

## LITTLE FIGHTING RECENTLY.

With the exception of a few shots exchanged with the retreating Boers at Vereninging, the only fighting during the last two days with all the great armies in the field appears to have been two small engagements in the eastern part of the Free State. At Ficksburg on Saturday the Boers attacked the British occupying the town, but they were forced to retire toward Slabbert's Nek. A Maseru correspondent wires the fact, adding that nothing is known regarding casualties. The same day General Brabant's scouts located 200 Boers entrenched near Cloocan. The scouts advanced to within 200 yards, when the Boers fired heavily. The scouts retired and four are missing.

General Rundle is slowly sweeping the eastern section of the Free State. Occasionally his squadrons came across parties of Boers, two or three in number, and usually on foot, who are wearily going to their farms. Some of them carry saddles on their backs. Wholesale surrenders are expected, but thus far they have not occurred in that region. Small commandos are described by the correspondents as hurrying to and fro and finding every road barred.

The British troops at Mafeking have been having some exciting cricket matches. The relieving troops are resting and the defending troops are feeding up. The Southern Railway has been repaired to a point within forty-five miles of Mafeking.

Some five or six hundred Boers are operating east of Vryburg, rallying the disaffected and watching an opportunity to cut the railway and to harass General Hunter's advancing division.

Lord Roberts has wired the War Office that there is urgent need for more rolling stock, and the Daily Express asserts that contracts have been placed in the United States for fifty locomotives and many cars, the British manufacturers being unable to fill the orders with requisite speed.

Several prominent outlanders have joined Lord Roberts as guides and advisers with reference to the country around Johannesburg.

Cape Town correspondent says: "United States Consul General Stowe is about to visit Lord Roberts, though whether out of personal curiosity or with some official purpose has not been made known here."

The Standard has the following from Vrededorf, dated Thursday, May 24: "Thirty thousand Boers are reported to have passed through here Tuesday and to have crossed the Vaal, but this number is probably excessive."

## WITH ROBERTS'S ARMY.

Incidents of the Advance Related by a Correspondent.

GROOTVIER, (twenty-three miles south of Vereninging), May 27.—Lord Roberts's northern advance force steadily continues, and to-day the Transvaal hills were sighted. General French has secured an excellent flanking position on the northwest. There is something irresistible about this advance. The troops have been splendidly handled and the Boers, completely outmaneuvered, have been forced to abandon their positions at the first appearance of the British flanking force, which has made a determined resistance at the Vaal impregnable. Many Transvaal burghers are now trekking homeward, and it is safe to say that the most irreconcilable Transvaal at last recognizes the hopelessness of the struggle.

Most of the farms in the northern part of the Free State which the tide of blood with the Transvaal are strongest, have been deserted. This section has been flooded with false tales of British cruelty, reports of the burning of farm houses and the eviction of women and children, in the hope of inducing the burghers to remain with the commandos, but the evidence all points now to the absence of a pervading feeling of enmity.

It is reported that the population of Johannesburg is in a high state of excitement. The Boers who are passing through northward threaten to blow up the mines, and in view of their wanton destruction of everything else, it would not be surprising if they carried out the threat. The British are more interested, however, in grazing and in the water supply than in the mines.

## HOW MAFERING TOOK RELIEF.

One Citizen Was So Cool That a Trooper Was Astonished.

MAFERING, Friday, May 18.—This is how Mafeking took the relief: Fully half the town, about 1:30 p. m. May 16, we heard the sound of artillery. Colonel Baden-Powell went up to the look-out. The women and children were on the house-tops and most of the men were manning the works. Major Mackenzie, of the headquarters staff, tumbled down stairs at 3 o'clock with a pigeon in his hand. In a few seconds the dispatch was on the table and the (CONTINUED ON SECOND PAGE.)

## NEELY'S THEFT

ALLEGED SHORTAGE OF THE MUXIE "NAPOLEON" IS GROWING.

Twenty Thousand More May Be Added to the \$100,000 He Is Already Charged With Stealing.

## LOOSE BUSINESS METHODS

NO RECORD KEPT OF CASH SALES OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

Therefore It Was Easy for Neely to Act in Collision with Cuban Postmasters, if So Desired.

## ARMY OFFICERS AGGRIEVED

ASSERT THEY ARE UNJUSTLY CHARGED WITH EXTRAVAGANCE.

Expenses Much Higher in Cuba Than When at Home—Col. Burton to Return to Havana at Once.

HAVANA, May 27.—A postal official who has been in the island more than a year says that when the Americans first came there were no records and no furniture, and that the statement of Neely, if in collision with the postmaster, would tally with the latter's statement. This official believes that when all the books and papers have been investigated the shortage will not amount to more than \$100,000. It is probable, however, that \$200,000 more has been taken, which cannot be traced. His estimate is consequently a mere surmise.

American officials here feel that they have been unjustly treated by certain newspapers in the United States which have published the sweeping statement that they all live extravagantly.

Army officers point out that if they have to live in cities their expenses are much greater than when at home. Moreover, very few care to risk the health of their families by keeping them in Cuba during the summer. Thus two establishments are necessary. As long as their duties compel them to live in a tropical climate they feel that the United States government, like other governments under similar conditions, should pay additional stipends.

So far as the officers of high rank are concerned, it should be pointed out that General Wood occupies only a small portion of the palace for residential purposes. The rest of the building being utilized not only for the divisional offices, but also for all the municipal offices. A number of employees have to be kept at General Wood's expense—cleaners and helpers generally—and he says that if he did not have some private resources to eke out his pay and his allowances it would be next to impossible for him to live in the palace at all.

Collector Bliss lives quietly in a single room at the Hotel Telegraph, going and returning from his office in a hired vehicle of the most ordinary description.

Major Ladd, chief quartermaster, lives at El Vedado in a house which he shares with three other families.

General Lee lives at headquarters at Quemados, where all his staff officers who are unmarried. General Wilson, governor of Matanzas-Santa Clara, lives in a house for which he pays a small salary.

Colonel Whitlatch, at Santiago, lives in a little wooden bungalow, formerly occupied by General Wood and leased from Mrs. Ramsden, wife of the former British consul.

General Humphrey, Colonel Black, Major Scott, Captain Pitcher and many officers live in buildings used by the government either as offices or police barracks.

General Wood has asked to-day what he thought of such charges, replied that he considered charges of extravagance in departments, except the postal, unfounded, adding that he believed no other department had anything to fear on that score, and that all could endure the closest investigation possible.

## STORM AT CHICAGO.

Two Little Girls Struck by Lightning and One Man Drowned.

CHICAGO, May 27.—While returning home from a candy store to-day during a storm Lucy Holden, thirteen years of age, was instantly killed by lightning, and her sister, Irene, ten years old, burned about the right side and shoulder, fell by the side of the girl in an unconscious condition, but will recover. The bodies of both girls were almost burned from their bodies.

Hail to the depth of three inches fell in the northwest suburbs. The storm was accompanied by a terrific electrical display. Many trees were splintered by the lightning.

On Lake Michigan, George Resch, a sail-boat-keeper, was drowned, and his companion, Paul Kutzner, after clinging to their upturned boat for nearly an hour, was rescued by men from the revenue cutter Michigan.

## OIL COMPANIES UNITE.

Four Concerns Combine with a Capital of Five Million Dollars.

TOLEDO, O., May 27.—The Producers' Oil Company, the Producers and Refiners' Oil Company, the United States Pipe-line Company and the Pure Oil Company have formed a combination under a single head. It will be known hereafter as the Pure Oil Company. The Producers' Oil Company was capitalized at \$600,000 and the others ranging from half a million to the millions. The new organization, it is understood, is capitalized at \$5,000,000.

## SOLAR ECLIPSE

WEATHER FAVORABLE FOR OBSERVATION THIS MORNING.

Cloudless Skies Last Night All Along the Shadow Belt from Alabama to North Carolina.

## ASTRONOMERS ALL READY

SPENT MOST OF SUNDAY NIGHT PERFECTING ARRANGEMENTS.

Everybody Anxious for Good Photographs of the Corona and Other Solar Phenomena.

## SMOKED GLASS IN REQUEST

TIME OF BEGINNING, MAXIMUM AND END OF THE ECLIPSE.

President McKinley and Party to View the Obscuration of the Sun from the Dolphin's Deck.

People who stay in bed until 9 o'clock in the morning need not read this article. The information it contains is intended for those who rise soon after dawn, steal out to the veranda, or front door, for their morning Journal and read it before breakfast. If, while at your matutinal meal the light of day falls, don't feel uneasy. If the chickens fly back to their roosts and the family Jersey begins to low, don't imagine you have lost a whole day and that even as much difference as a size at the end of smoked glass, go to the roof of your house and take a peep at "old Sol," or look at the place where Sol ought to be. If atmospheric conditions be favorable you will see one of the wonders of the closing century. Luna, which poets like to call "Queen of the Night," will be found trying to obscure the "King of the Day." Luna is not so large as Sol, in fact, there is about as much difference in size as there is between a flea and a behemoth, but, nevertheless, Luna will accomplish her purpose—she will eclipse the sun. If you have patience you can see her do it. And while you are watching the moon's shadow passing over the sun don't forget to take a peep at the sun's corona. The corona is a phenomenon that all scientists are seeking information about. They know in a general way that it is caused by the gases given off by the burning matter that composes the sun, but it cannot be well studied, except when the fierce light of the sun is dimmed by a shadow such as the moon will cast this morning when it comes between the earth and Sol. Therefore, every astronomer of note may be found in the Southern States this morning, where the eclipse will be total, making the best use of his opportunity. Below is the time (standard) as furnished by John C. Dean, when the eclipse may be seen in this city and vicinity:

Beginning ..... 6:59  
Maximum ..... 7:48:39  
End ..... 8:39

For people who live in the vicinity of Cincinnati, Chicago or St. Louis the following times are given:

Beginning ..... 6:41:27  
Maximum ..... 7:30:39  
End ..... 8:20:35

Beginning ..... 6:52  
Maximum ..... 7:41  
End ..... 8:32

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Astronomers say the best way to view an eclipse is from an open field or lot, where there are no trees or buildings that may interfere. It will be difficult to get a good view of the phenomenon from the downtown streets, as there is a possibility that it occurs there will very few places that are not in the shadow of some building. The parks are not good places to view it from, as there are too many trees. Smoked or colored glass, either with or without magnifying power, should be used. The naked eye should not be used. Astronomers say that a good opera glass, with the eye protected by smoked or colored glass, makes an excellent instrument of observation.

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ASTRONOMERS READY.

Stayed Up Last Night Perfecting Their Arrangements.

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## FOUR HOLY MEN

DRS. D. H. MOORE, J. W. HAMILTON, E. W. PARKER AND F. W. WARNE, consecrated at Chicago Yesterday.

New Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Solemnly Consecrated at Chicago Yesterday.

## BRIEF, SIMPLE CEREMONIES

CONDUCTED BY TWELVE BISHOPS AND EIGHT ELDERS.

The New Prelates Congratulated by Delegates to the General Conference and Other Friends.

## "PARSON" GOODWIN'S LETTER

INCIDENTS OF SATURDAY'S SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE REVIEWED.

Spirited Debate Over the Amusement Question—The Temperance Report—Delegates See Dowle.

CHICAGO, May 27.—By the laying on of the hands of twelve bishops and in the presence of 2,000 persons at the Auditorium four new bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church were consecrated this afternoon. The newly consecrated bishops are: David Hastings Moore, assigned to the Shanghai district; John William Hamilton, assigned to the San Francisco district; Edwin Wallace Parker and Frank Wesley Warne, missionary bishops, assigned to India and Malaya.

The ceremonies were brief and simple. The delegates to the conference and hundreds of their friends came forward, when the services were at an end, and crowded the stage to congratulate the four new bishops. On the stage were seventeen bishops, the four bishops-elect and eight elders. After an opening prayer, Bishop Bowman led in the singing of "Heralds of the Cross." The audience then recited the creed and Bishop Joyce led in prayer. Bishop McCabe led in singing "The Ministers' Only Business," the collect was recited by Bishop Fitzgerald and the gospel by Bishop Thoburn. Bishop Wyman then advanced and stood in front of Bishop-elect Moore, who later stood with Elders J. C. Arbuckle and A. J. Nast, who announced: "We present unto you this holy man to be consecrated a bishop." The same ceremony was gone through with Elders W. F. Warren and M. C. B. Mason, for Bishop-elect Hamilton; Elders J. W. Waugh and James Mudge for Bishop-elect Parker, and Elders P. H. Swift and Julius Smith for Bishop-elect Warne. Bishop Fowler arose after this ceremony and read a call to prayer, which was followed with a prayer by Bishop Vincent.

The examination and invocation were by Bishop Andrews, the four men answering the questions as to the work they are to perform. The "Veni Creator Spiritus" was recited by Bishop Warren, the audience chanting the responses. Bishop Cranston followed with a prayer, and then Bishops Merrill, McCabe and Cranston arose and stood in front of the Rev. Mr. Moore, who knelt at a bench, with the elders on either side of him. The three bishops placed their hands on his head and recited the prayers of consecration. Bishop-elect Moore was then handed a new Bible. Those who performed the ceremony for Bishop-elect Hamilton were Bishops Mallen, Walden and Warren; for Bishop-elect Parker, Bishops Foss, Hurst and Thoburn; for Bishop-elect Warne, Bishops Nind, Goodsell and Hartzell. The latter two were consecrated missionary bishops to work in India and Malaya. A prayer of thanksgiving was said by Bishop Goodsell, and the choir sang "Te Deum Laudamus." The closing benediction was pronounced by Bishop Merrill.

SATURDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.